

Message Text

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43

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08

L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20

CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01

SPC-03 FEA-02 OMB-01 SAM-01 DRC-01 (ISO) W

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P R 121545Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9295

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

USEC BRUSSELS PRIORITY 076

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CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, EC, SF

SUBJECT: GATT ARTICLE XXIV:6 NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 02781

SUMMARY: SA HAS PREPARED RESPONSE ACCEPTING EC OFFER IN PRINCIPLE. ACTING ON EARLIER DISCUSSION WITH US, SAG INSTRUCTED ITS GENEVA MISSION TO DELAY FORMAL RESPONSE TO END OF FEB. FOLLOWING APPROACH TODAY BY EMBOFF, MATTER WILL BE REVIEWED WITH EYE TO EARLIER FORMAL REPLY. END SUMMARY.

1. IN ACCORDANCE REFTTEL, EMBOFF CALLED ON CHIEF MULTILATERAL TRADE SECTION, DEPT. OF COMMERCE, SAG, TO DISCUSS STATUS SA-EC
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GATT ARTICLE XXIV:6 NEGOTIATIONS.

2. COMMERCE OFFICIAL STATED THAT FORMAL SAG RESPONSE TO DEC. 13 EC OFFER HAS BEEN PREPARED. GIST OF RESPONSE IS THAT (A) SAG PREPARED TO ACCEPT "IN PRINCIPLE" EC OFFER, (B) HOWEVER, WOULD LIKE CLARIFICATION THAT SAG HAS INITIAL NEGOTIATING RIGHTS ON NUMBER OF SENSITIVE SA EXPORT ITEMS AS WELL AS CERTAIN ITEMS FOR WHICH IT HAD INITIAL NEGOTIATING RIGHTS IN DILLON ROUND, AND (C) THOUGH ACCEPTING EC OFFER IN PRINCIPLE, SAG CONCERNED ABOUT TREATMENT SEVERAL ITEMS AND RESERVES RIGHT TO SEEK IMPROVEMENT IN MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS.

3. FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN US AND SA MISSION IN GENEVA, SAG CONSIDERED POSSIBILITY OF DELAYING FORMAL RESPONSE IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN US BARGAINING HAND. (OFFICIAL OPINED THAT EC ALREADY AWARE OF SUBSTANCE OF SA RESPONSE.) ON FEB 11, ECONOMIC MINISTER GAVE APPROVAL AND INSTRUCTIONS SENT SA MISSION GENEVA TO DELAY FORMAL SUBMISSION TO END OF MONTH.

4. EMBOFF EXPRESSED APPRECIATION SAG DELAYED RESPONSE BUT, IN ACCORDANCE REFTBY, NOTED WE NO RPT NO LONGER SEE REASON FOR DELAY. COMMERCE OFFICIAL PROMISED TO CONTACT MINISTER WITH VIEW TO EARLIER SA RESPONSE. HE DID NOT RPT NOT ENVISAGE ANY PROBLEMS AND PROMISED TO LET US KNOW FINAL DECISION.

5. EMBASSY WILL ADVISE WHEN INFORMED BY SAG.
SMITH

NOTE BY OC/T: REFTEL APPARENTLY INCORRECT. WILL BE SERVICED ON REQUEST.

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